Wells family history by Mary Wells unpublished, handwritten manuscript, transcribed by Orin Wells, Wells Family Research Assoc., 2000

Written between 1935 and 1948

The following was provided to me by Lorraine Cook White several years ago. This is the first time I have actually tried to study it in any detail I have retained the spelling and grammar as contained in the original handwritten material. Hope I didn't add too many typo errors in the process. Lorraine, I hope you will review it and let me know of any corrections needed.
Double line separators (═══) indicate where the original pages separated.
[Orin R. Wells 20 Feb 2000]

**Wells Family History**
**Written by Mary Wells**
**Daughter of Ira Wells**

There is much that is not clear about the time and also the rest, but it is conceded that the grandmother and the two Aunties raised the family of nine children at Rapid City, Ill. We believe their grandmother died there and Aunt Polly also.

Asenath #476 Aunt Sena married very late in life a Mr. Edwards. Children all grown to man and womanhood. We know nothing of the girl we think they called Lucy. We lost trace of her someway. #735?

#734 The one we called Susan married a man by name Owens and they went to Missouri and we lost trace of them there.

═══

"Ira Wells" Parents #475+474

Daniel Wells and Lucy Wells left Vermont about 1817 when Ira was about 3 years old. It seems they lived in Ohio perhaps 3 years. Then journeyed on to Wayne Co., Ill. Shawneetown. The father sickened and died there before the youngest son "Daniel III" was born. The mother also died when he was but an infant nine months old or near that, leaving a group of nine orphan children.

The next we know of them they are in Rapid City, ILL. With their grandmother and Aunts Polly and Asenath Wells = "Maidens".

═══

#472 Laura Wells

Was much married. First to a man named L. Cook *(Eliphalet T. Cook)*. I don't know the correct way to spell his name but we called it Lifelet Cook. (Uncle Lifelet) They had a big family of children and he died early.

Then she married Edwards. He died and she married a man by name of Spade. And it was thought she married again after his death. Not sure. It has gone down in history that Aunt Laura was a beautiful character and that all loved her who knew her. He sons, Ira and Dan Cook, have both <can not read the next sentence>

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# Wells Family History by Mary Wells

## Reflections

Jeffrey Hunt
September 4 2025

This document, *Wells Family History*, was written by Mary Wells, the youngest daughter of Ira Wells. It was sent to me by my cousin, Cassie Widener Shields. Cassie is the granddaughter of Francis Smith, the eldest sibling in my grandmother Blanche Toner Dear's family—though I'll confirm that.

I had never seen this manuscript before. The title page reads: *Wells Family History by Mary Wells — unpublished handwritten manuscript, transcribed by Oren Wells, Wells Family Research Association, 2000.* A new path to explore. It's possible the manuscript has already been published or archived online.

The text was written between 1935 and 1948. I initially thought it might have been compiled by Lorna Saylor, but now I believe it may have come from the Douglas County Museum. The original handwritten version could be in the museum archives. Establishing that provenance will be important.

This is one more thread among many—an intriguing one. Researching Oren Wells and the Wells Family Research Association could be worthwhile, and Cassie may have more details to share.

Cassie sent the pages as phone photos, just as I'd requested—quick and simple. Because of the camera angle, the images were slightly distorted, so I cleaned them up for easier reading. Despite the formatting challenges, the content is rich and filled with remarkable insights that expand the family story.

One connection I'm especially interested in is to the Zumwalt family. I have letters between Mary Wells and a cousin Zumwalt but had never been able to confirm the relationship. This manuscript explains it. There's also a Beale family history online that touches on the same link—this document reinforces that thread.

There's a wealth of material here on the extended Wells family that's entirely new to me. It may be worth checking whether the *Hawley* family history—an extensive book that includes the Wells line—made use of this manuscript. It's possible it didn't, depending on when that book was compiled.

All in all, this is a valuable addition, and I'm deeply grateful to Cassie for sending it. There's more work ahead.

Of the six boys (brothers) 3 of them had blue eyes and 3 of them had black eyes. Nelson, Ira and Merit were the blue eyed ones. Asaph, Eri and Dan black eyes. Aunt Laura had black eyes. We don't know so much about the other two.

Daniel Wells II[d] was married to Lucy Fuller perhaps 1801 or 2. They lived in Athens township in the County of Windham State of Vermont. Nine children were born to them:

- Asaph the Eldest was born 1803
- Erie
- Susan
- Merrit
- Laura
- Ira born in Vermont 1814
- Lucy (not sure of name)
- Nelson born on Ohio River on the way to Illinois or Ohio 1817.
- Daniel born in Ill. Shawneetown.

#763 Daniel Wells the first must have died early in life and left grandmother a widow. From Vermont they all come to Illinois. First to the South part of the state and then to Rock Island Co. where they settled and married.

#764 Rachel married Samuel Beal. There were two sons. Daniel Beal and Samuel Beal

Grandmother Wells was a good Christian woman. A Presbyterian in faith, raised her family and grandchildren by Presbyterian and Methodist doctrines. The M. E. church was strongest in Rock Island.

Mary Lucy Wells. Uncle Asaphs 2[d] daughter born in R. I., Ill. Went to Missouri with parents. Entangled with "Murphy" while there. Went to Green River with parents 1852. Wintered there. Met McDonald and was married to him there 1853. In Spring all came to Ore. And Cal. Mary Lucy and McDonald went to Cal. With Davis? Then they went to San Francisco. They boarded a vessel to enter Coos Bay Oregon. A storm arose. The Captain could not land. The Mate thought he could take Mary Lucy and baby boy in small boat, but the sea was too heavy, boat capsized. Mother and baby boy both lost at the entrance to Coos Bay.

Emaline Wells Davis 1st daughter

Uncle Asaph & family left Missouri about 1852 coming to Oregon. They wintered at Green River on the old Oregon Trail - And in the Spring 1853 made the journey on to Oregon. The Davis's went to California, made homes there at Vaccaville - Uncle and Clara came on to Oregon. Aunt Clara died here in Sept. 1875,

Daniel Beal, son of Rachel Wells and Samuel Beal was married to Betsy. Settled in R. I. Co, Ill. 3 children,

- Dr. Lucius
- ~~Bert~~ Sam
- Eunice

(Note written by someone else: "Dr. Bent Beal was a son of Dr. Lucius Beal, Dan Beal's grandson instead of son"

NOT INPUT

Eunice married Cooper - 3 or 4 children. Came to Ore. Lived in Fenton co. on the farm once owned by her uncle Samuel. She died there.

Eunice Marian was granddaughter. Dr. Lucius Beal has the distinction of being the 2d child born in Zuma Township 1838.

==========

Aaron Wells married Mary C. Jefferson. Came to Oregon. 3 children:
William Wells
Layfayette died early 21 years
May married Bruce Zumwalt when she was 21 years old
{Orin's note. May was Abigail May Wells who wrote"The Wells Family" for the Oregon DAR}
Aaron and wife were unhappy and were separated. Each went their way. Aaron died rather early in his life. He died in 1879 when his daughter May was 11 years old. May was born Nebraska 1868. Came to Ore - 1874 with parents.

==========

Francis Coby Wells, son of Eri, married Margaret Patterson. A girl uncle Merit raised. They came to Oregon. He was a carpenter and violinist. Their children were five or more

- Rachel - married foster
- Flora - Mariah
- Elmer - Lena - Tom

They went from Ore. To Montana. We lost them there.

Columbus W married Belle Boatride. Know nothing of family. He went to Oklahoma and was bitten by a Tarantula and died there. He came to Oregon on a visit.

==========

Oregon 1847 Farmer

Ira Wells 6th child Married Anna Elizabeth Mandler 08 Dec 1844. He was the sixth child of Daniel Wells and Lucy fuller. Married in Vermont 1802. Came to Ill. with his parents grew to manhood and married there. They came to Oregon raised his 10 children. The oldest died on plains or when crossing the Rogue River. She fell off the wagon and was killed. The mother had left her asleep while she went to help others in distress. The oxen

Eugene
started up the child rolled off. She was about 18 months old. Buried at Encine Skinners Bar ? Butte

Ira Wells and Anna Elizabeth Mandler Wells. Children were

1. Caroline Elizabeth born Apr.9 1848.
2. Darius Wells March 28 1849
3. Susannah Wells Oct 13 1850
4. Esther Wells June 4 1852
5. Hannah Wells Aug 13 1853
6. Flora Wells Nov. 1 1855
7. Louisa Matilda Oct. 28 1858
8. Francis Franklin Nov. 8 1859
9. Mary Townsend Aug 4 1863
10. George Otto Mandler July 17 1865

All born in Oregon. The first Flora born in Illinois. Flora Wells 1st born Feb 11 1846

==========

#733 Merit Wells 3d married Saviah _____. Moved to Nebraska had 3 boys Victor - Davis - Solon. His wife died and he married again Rachel grant. To this union one girl was born Florence. Florence married a man named Meeker. No children came of this union. Florence came to Oregon to visit her people. As did Victor and Solon. Victor had wife and children. Samantha was her name.

==========

Merit Wells was a Millwright by trade. He owned a nice farm and a large grist mill at Wells Mill Nebraska and his children lived around there. Florence fell heir to the old home. In politics Uncle Merit was Republican. In religion he was Spirtualist - and Florence the same. In his latter years he lost his eyesight. I think became totally blind before death. He lived to good old age. "A good Man".

==========

Merrett Wells
Dorus F. Wells married Ada G. Willson or Wilson of Vermont
Dan Wells
Solon Wells

---

Florence Wells

---

Dorus F. Wells
Solon F. Wells
Florence Wells of Hotsprings, Wyoming. Now Florence Busch, 2810 West Easton Pl., Tulsa, Okla.
Elmer R. Wells
Charlott M. Wells
Jessie V. Wells

W$^{m}$ Wells was a wonderful man. Honest as the day is long. Was educated in Ill. Studied for a lawyer. Was admitted to the bar. A great educator, taught school for years. A surveyor and (..... ....) man in early Oregon.

---

Eri Wells 2$^{d}$ married Margaret Coley. Lived in Nebraska. Children all boys.

- Romulus
- Oliver
- Aaron
- Francis Coly
- Columbus
- Sherman - died young

We know nothing of the life of Romulus and Oliver. Oliver had a boy named Iraa.

---

Uncle Asaph's grandaughter

Sarah Wells Murphy, daughter of Mary Lucy Wells, was born in Missouri about 1852. Came to Green River with mother and grandparents and come to Oregon with grandparents. The Mother (Mary Lucy) married MdDonald and went to California an dnever saw baby "Sarah" after that. Uncle Asaph and aunt Clara raised her, and in Jan 1867 she married Ansel Weatherly. They continued to live with Uncle Asaph and raised a large family. 10 or 11 children.
Charley - Fred - Clara - Ella - Phil - Maggy- Mina - Del - Pearl - another one or two died with Diptheria. Charley was born Oct 1867 - Ella Feb 29, 1872, Clara Aug 5 1869 or 79.

---

Samuel Beal, bro. to Dan, married Alice ---. 3 Children

- Will Beal
- Johnny -
- Clara -

Johnny died in Illinois and after that Sam moved his family to Benton Co., Oregon where they owned a beautiful home.

Clara married Paul Dodele and raised a family near by the old home. 4 or 5 children. I don't know there names.

Wills wife died in Ill. but he brought 3 children with him (cant' read names)

---

My father's cousins Dan and Sam Beal were very fine men, and had very fine families. Daniel was a great politician. Was elected to office several times. A very popular man.

Samuel was as good as gold and had a good wife. Republicans and Methodists.

When Paul and Clara retired, they moved to Albany, Oregon.

---

Nellie A. Wells - now Nellie A. Hilterbrand, Springfield, Ore.

Doris Wells was married to Ada _____. They raised a family of boys, but they were not happy together. And his brother said he took his boys and came west to Springfield, Ore. Settled on a dairy farm there and we lost trace of them.

Solon was married to Kate ---- a widow. So far as I know he had but one girl "Flossie" she was a school teacher. Solon was a farmer and lived in Nebraska near the old home of his father. Solon had another girl married and living in Canada.

Nelson Wells 8th child married Hariett Dow of Canada. 7 children

- Rensalaer - Wells
- Esther P.
- Laura
- Anthony
- Lucy
- Ira and Eunice.

Ren married and moved to Nebraska has several children. Wife's name was Jessie. He came to Ore. On visit. A fine Christian man. One boy's name was Tom.

Nelson Wells born Feb. 6 1811? 1817
(can't read next two lines....) Spent 3years in Ohio
Thence to Ill. Wayne Co. Later to Rock Island County. (can't read next word). Rapid City.

Nelson was married to Harriet Dow 1838. She was born in Canada came as servant when quite young and then to Rock Island Co. when 15 years old or near that.

Emma Tubbs died Sept. 20, 1933. Her daughter Grace married nme is Murry she has 3 girls 1 boy - Robert Irene Emma and Betty Jean. Laura Frye died 1935.

George Wells never married.

Josephine Wells married Henry Cottle.
Some children died young. Clara and Lena (eldest)
Jack Cottle owns an oyster cannery in Wash- Married Christina has one girl Elizabeth ("born 1922" written by someone else).
Jack Cottle born - 1878.

Lena married Ind. Green. Lived in Wash. No children.

Daniels children

Clara died young.
Henry Cottle died Feb 6, 1925 - nearly 85 years old)
Josephine died.

==========

Dr. Daniel Wells 9th child married Eliza Grant. He was born the youngest son of Daniel Wells and Lucy fuller. Born in Ill. after his fathers death. He married in Ill. and came to Oregon in 1847 in co. with his bro. Ira wells.
There were four Children:
George born Elkton July 14 1851
Josephine 1855
Lena
Ella 1862

Dr. Wells was killed by a horse near the Dalles, Ore. Aunt Eliza raised the children the best she could.

==========

Anthony Wells married Kate _____. There were five children. Have not all their names
Ned - Cora - and Clara
Walter

Ira Wells married Nora Noel. She died early. 4 children
Ned - or Nelson and (can't read last word)
Elsie
Mabel Wells
Can't recall the other boys name.
Ira went blind in his later years.

==========

Esther Wells married Tolson but no children came. Tolson I believe his name W^m.

Laura Wells married Bro. Trye. An M.E. Preacher. He was too popular eith the ladies and they separated. They had 3 girls. She never married again. Her daughter Emma married a Kellogg. She was and elecutionist by profession - nice people all.

Lucy Wells married Doc. Johnson. No children.

Emma Wells married Tubbs - 2 children. Boy and girl named Grace. I think Uncle Nelsons family were all Christian people.

==========

Uncle Daniel Wells was a Doctor. He went to school far more than the other boys. Then he took up the study of Medicine and ethics and Medical terms under Dr. Grant and Dr. Danforth and married Dr. Grant;s daughter. Then came west where there was a great opening for him.

He loved horses and ran a pack train between Portland and the Dalles. Was killed there. He made another trip across the plains in 1863. Piloted his wife's people across to Oregon. Aunt Eliza caught her clothes on fire and was burned to death while nursing the sick.

---

Lena Wells ---- daughter
Married Tom Edson. Lived around Humbolt, Cal. had 2 sons when she died.

Ella Wells. First married Charles Smith a worthless ne'er do well. Had one boy Philip. They separated and in after years she married "Pence" in California had four or five children. We never knew them. Philip died when a young man.

---

#6359 Darius Wells born March 28, 1849. Married Julia Haney Dec. 8, 1876. 3 Children.
Laura born May 25th 1878
"Royal Robert" Sept. 12 18--
Rettie July 31st 1891
Always lived in Douglas Co., Ore. Died Nov. 25 1930
Julia left him and was married twice afterwards.
Died at the same old home Dec -

Laura died Jan 11 1903
Rettie June 12 1895

---

Ira Wells (can't read last word - may be children)
Caroline Wells born Apr. 9, 1878 married to William W. Hawley

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Henry Herbert Hawley | Feb 19, 1868 (Jan 26, 1868 written above entry) |
| 2. | Minnie Myrtle | 20 Sep 1870 |
| 3. | Ben M- | Oct. 8, 1872 |
| 4. | Charles Francis | Feb. 13 1874 |
| 5. | Willa Miniford | Jan. 30, 1875 |
| 6. | Carrie Abigal | Feb. 17, 1876 |
| 7. | Tina Louisa | Nov. 20, 1877 |
| 8. | Flora Orpha | May 22, 1880 |
| 9. | Ira | May 15, 1882 |
| 10. | Katie Bell | March 11, 1884 |
| 11. | Wm W- | Nov. 29, 1885 |
| 12. | Bird Oscar Norman | July 13 1887 |
| 13. | Ralph V. | 1888 |
| 14. | Mary | (no date given |
| 15. | Died in infancy (no name or date) | |

---

Susannah Wells born Oct. 13, 1850

Willa Winnifred Hawley born Jan 30, 1875. Married W$^{m}$ Hellyer. Cattle King of Eastern Oregon. No children
They were not long married. She sickened and died in an operation at The Dalles.

Carrie Abigal Hawley born Feb 17, 1876. Was drowned when but a small child.

---

Ben M- Hawley born Oct. 8, 1872. Married to Mary Daugherty. One boy.
Name Laurence Hawley. Know nothing more.

Charles Francis Hawley born Feb. 13, 1874. Died at entrance to Portland City Park June 1909.

---

Flora Orpha Hawley born May 22, 1880. Married to Carl Coats. 2 children.
Darcy Coats
Odie Coats

Coats was killed on Railroad Track

Orpha married again to McCoughey a scotchman. There were children. I don't know them.

---

Ira Hawley born May 15, 1882. Was killed by a horse in Eastern Ore. near The Dalles.

Katie Bell Hawley born March 11, 1884. Was married to Ralph Wills. No children
They went to California.

---

W$^{m}$ W- Hawley born Nov. 29, 1885. Married his cousin Jeannette Hawley. 5 children
Henry
Harvey
Margaret
Joaquin
Boyd

---

Bird Oscar Norman Hawley born July 13, 1887. Married just before going to World War. There were no children.

Ralph V. Hawley born 1889. Married to Mrs. Edna Morgan. No children

---

#644 Ralph Carr born Oct. 18, 1867. Married his cousin Millie #657 Smith, born aug 28, 1882. Died in Alaska Jan 1930.
Was teaching school there.

No children
Ralph spent much of his time in Cal. and in unknown parts.

---

Mary Hawley. The last of the lot. Married Clay Mosby. One child, a girl
Ardeen
They were not happy. They separated.
Mary had another child, a boy, died with Diphtheria at Orphas place in Wash.

---

Esther's
Esthus Children.
653 Lewis N. Smith born June 9, 1871
Never married. Died June 2, 1931

659 ✓Anna Elizabeth born Sept 23, 1872
Died Jan 23, 1877

Pitzer
654 ✓James Pilzer born Feb. 1, 1875
Married Virginia Lee Miller Jan. 1904.
Died March 1, 1936
Had one girl. Dorthy Smith

655 ✓Susan Esther June 3, 1876
Died in Roseburg 1898 (written above is "22")

---

Toner
Bertha Bright Smith born Apr 20, 1879. Married James ~~Jones~~. 8 children
Frances Cleo
Kenneth
Blanche
John
Marie
Esther
Raphael and Barbara

Frances married ___Shields. 2 children - Juanita

Blanche married Thurman Dear
1 Alice Marg
Swearingin
Marie married Howard Sweo---(can't read last of name)
Donna Jean and Loyd Jones

---

Lillie Leone Smith born March 20, 1884. Married Lee C. Goodman.
No children
Lee sickened and died 193-

Married Samuel B. Carr Dec. 25, 1866. 3 children
Ralph born Oct. 28, 1867
Alice " May 11, 1875?
Baby Aug 25, 187-
Mother died when baby was born (with scarlet fever.)

---

#540 Esther Wells born Jun 4, 1852. Married John L. Smith Sept 17, 1870
8 children.
Lewis N. Smith born June 9, 1871
Anna Elizabeth Sept. 23, 1872
Pitzer James Pilzer Feb. 1, 1875
Susan Esther June 3, 1876
Millie Christina Aug. 28, 1882
Bertha Bright April 20, 1879
Lillie Leone March 20, 1887
Dollie Dec. 9, 1885

---

#3 John Lewis Smith was born in Virginia. Came first to Missouri with parents and then to Oregon. born about 1832 came to Ore. About 1852.
A very fine man.
He died Feb 25, 1889
Anna E. - died Jan 23, 1877
Lewis N - died June 2, 1831 1931
Jack P. died March 1, 1936
Dollie
Millie
Susan
#540 Esther "Wells" Smith died July 23 1937

---

Flora Wells born Nov 1, 1855
When the family was forted up together against an outbreak of the Umpqua Indians on Uncle Asaph;s Wells place. The women were all terrorized. The Rogue River Indians were then in battle with the Whites and the Umpqua's threatened to join them

Flora never married. He one lover died 1884. She always did what she could to help others. She was a wonderful woman - helped the other girls raise their families - and taught school for 12 years. She died Dec 26, 1925.

---

Hannah Wells born Aug 13, 1853. Married Joseph Roberts Aug. 13, 1874. 4 children.
Willie Roberts born June 26, 1875
Lodema Louisa July 27, 1877
Hannah Mary Dec. 3, 1878
Talitha Bernice Aug. 16, 1882

Joseph Roberts was a ship carpenter and cabinetmaker. He was born in Ireland Dec. 27, 1837. Came to America when small boy. Democrat. Hannah died June 26, 1897
Willie died 19--

==========

#643 Francis Franklin Wells born Nov. 8, 1859. Married Elise L. Hefty June 1899. 3 children. #644
Lena Irene Wells Dec 12, 1907
Frances Bea? Feb. 10, 1910
Ira Thomas Nov. 10, 1911

Frank was never very strong & rugged, had what was called a white swelling on his left leg which gave him much suffering all his young life. Lived most of his life on the old farm where he was born. Died June 20, 1931. A good man and had a good wife.

==========

Louisa did not marry?

Louisa Matilda Wells born Oct. 28, 1858 never married.
A dear good girl. Every one loved her who knew her, but the Lord loved her best and called her home. She died Aug. 4, 1882. She had lung trouble. She loved to do things for others.

==========

Caroline's son, Ira's grandson

Henry Herbert Hawley born Feb 19, 1868. Married to Charlotte Vandenberg.
No children.
They adopted two of her brothers children
Luella
Violet
Charlotte died and Herbert married again Adah from Detroit Michigan.
They live at Post (can't read the last two words)

==========

Mary Wells born Aug 4, 1863.
Always lived at home where borne. Tried to carry her share of the burdon of the home. Caring for afflicted and aged as occasion required - never married.

George Otto Mandler Wells born July 17, 1865. Died when 11 years old with Diphtheria Aug. 26, 1876. A dear sweet boy.

==========

Minnie Myrtle Hawley. Born Sept. 20, 1870. Married to John Culp. 3 children.
Harold
(can't read second name)
Gladys

The children all married and all had children but we know nothing of them.

==========

Christina Louisa Hawley born Nov. 20, 1877. Married J--- Cook.
Bohemia Mine owner. No children.

After several years they decided they were not happy and separated. Went to California.
Republican.

==========